

## Basics 5: How to Use Colors in Designer

Using colors in Designer is probably the most important skill you'll need to know how to do well. Thankfully, the creators of Affinity Designer made using colors simple and intuitive.

As we have already seen, when you create a shape, you can go to the Color Panel and give it a new color by clicking on the outer circle of the Color Wheel. In this lesson, we'll teach you the basics of adding color as well as a brief introduction to more advanced methods of using colors.

**Extra:** We created a special lesson titled Color Theory, Modes, and Codes to help you more fully understand colors and how to properly use them.

As we have discussed several times already, the most important thing you need to know about every shape is that it is made up of two things: Fill & Stroke. The Fill is the inside color, and the Stroke is the outside border (which you have to activate to see).

Let's start this lesson by creating a New Document and adding four shapes to it. This will be a refresher lesson to the one we did before. The purpose is to get you proficient in using the awesome program. We'll assume you already know how to do some of the instructions without having to be told how. Consider it progressive learning.

*Create a New Document:*

- **Web - CD Cover Digital Release**
- **Transparent Background** (*checked*).

Create the four shapes you see in the image below and set each color using the Color Wheel:

**Shape 1:** *Click* on the **Rectangle Tool** and *click & drag* a **rectangle** in the top-left corner of the document. Make its color red.

**Shape 2:** *Click* on the **Ellipse Tool** and *click & drag* a **circle** to the right of the rectangle. Remember to *hold-down* the **Shift key** so the circle is symmetrical.

Go to the **Color Wheel** and *click* on a **blue**.

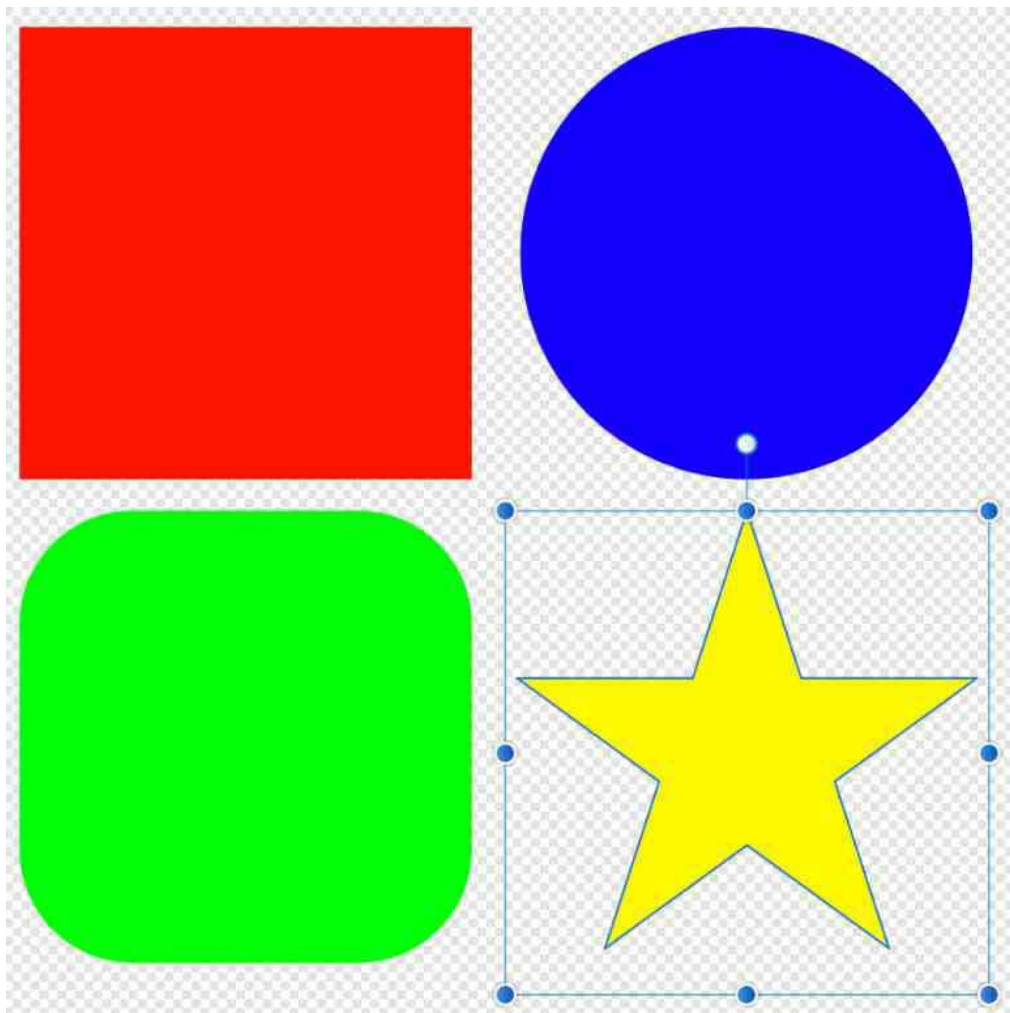
**Shape 3:** *Click* on the **Rounded Rectangle Tool** and *click & drag* a **rectangle** underneath the first Rectangle. *Hold-down Shift* if you want to.

Go to the **Color Wheel** and *click* on a **green**.

**Shape 4:** *Click* on the **Star Tool** and *click & drag* a **Star** to the right of the Rounded Rectangle Shape.

Go to the **Color Wheel** and *click* on a **yellow**.

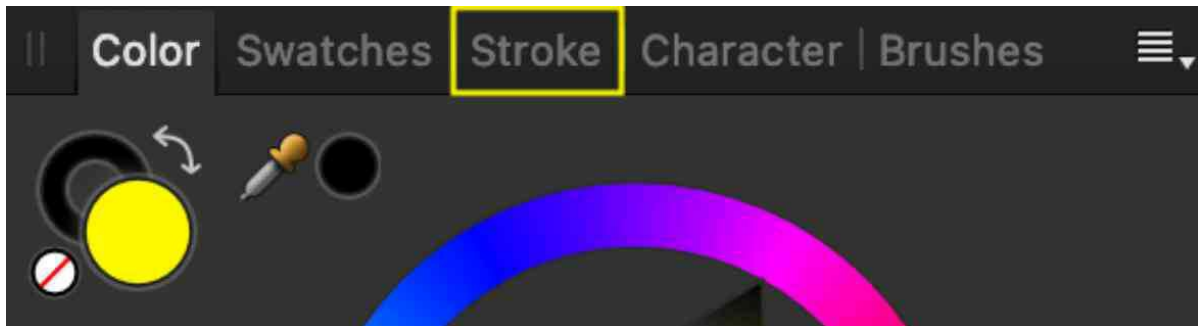
This is what your document should look like now. Don't worry if your colors are exactly the same as ours.



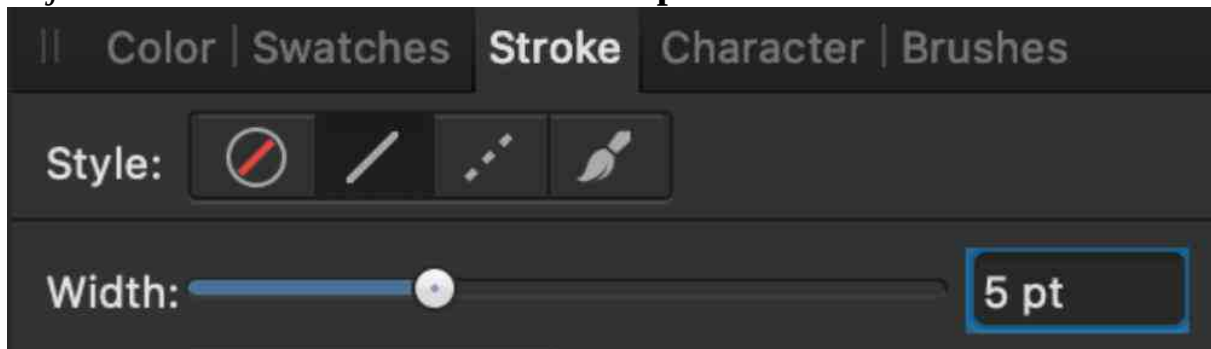
So far, we've only changed the color of each shape's Fill. Now, we'll work on

each shape's Stroke. Since the yellow Star shape is already selected and its layer is highlighted in blue, we'll start with it.

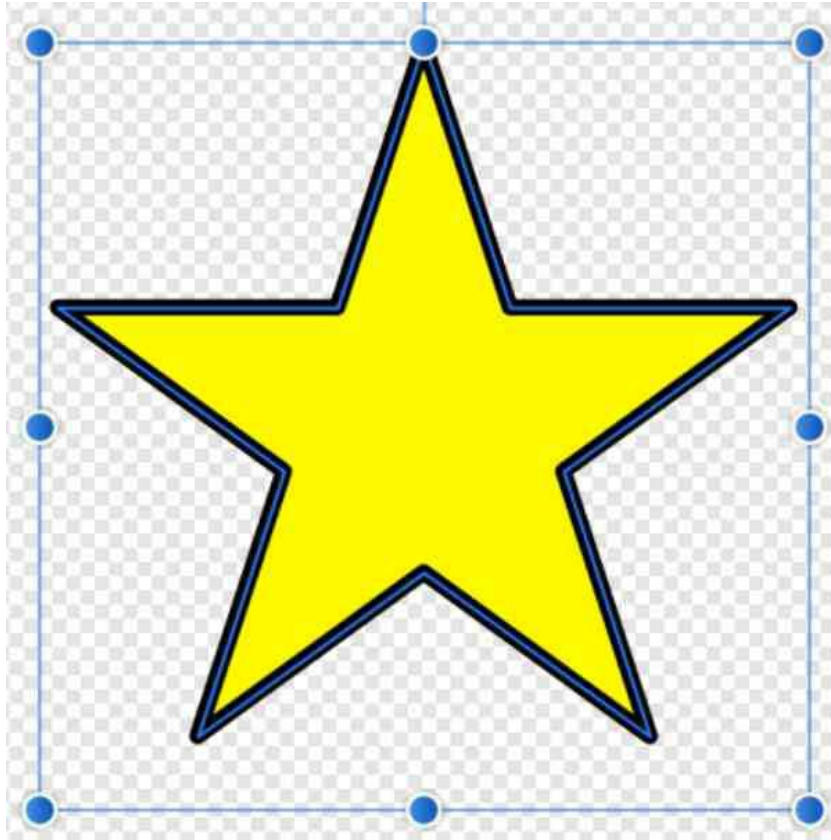
Go to the **Color Studio** and *click* on the **Stroke** Panel (see the yellow rectangle in the below image). Does this sound familiar?



Adjust the **Width slider** so its value is **5 pt**.



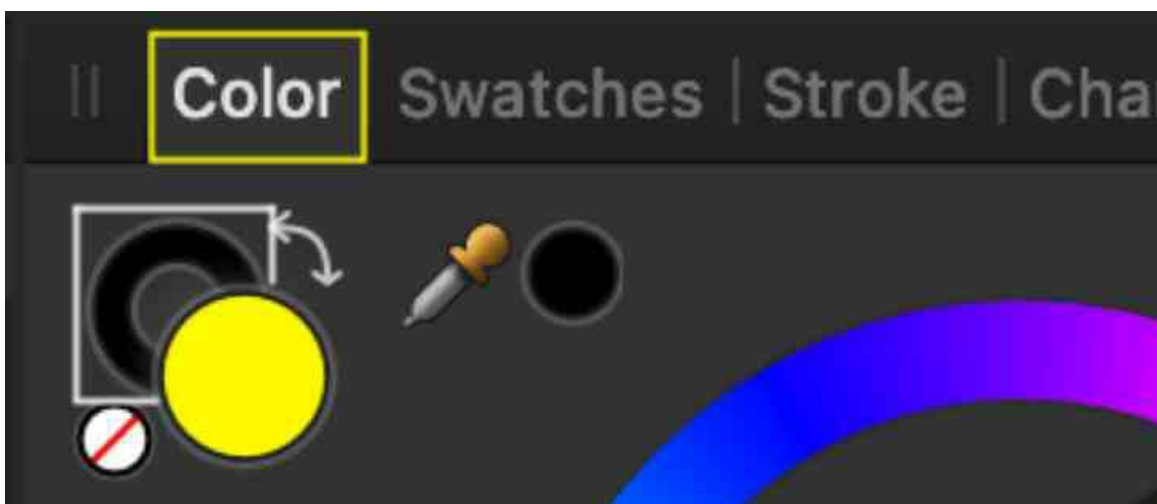
This is what the Star shape should look like now.



Now that we've increased the Width of the Star's stroke, let's change its color.

*Click on the **Color Panel** (see the yellow rectangle in the below image) so the Color Wheel is again visible.*

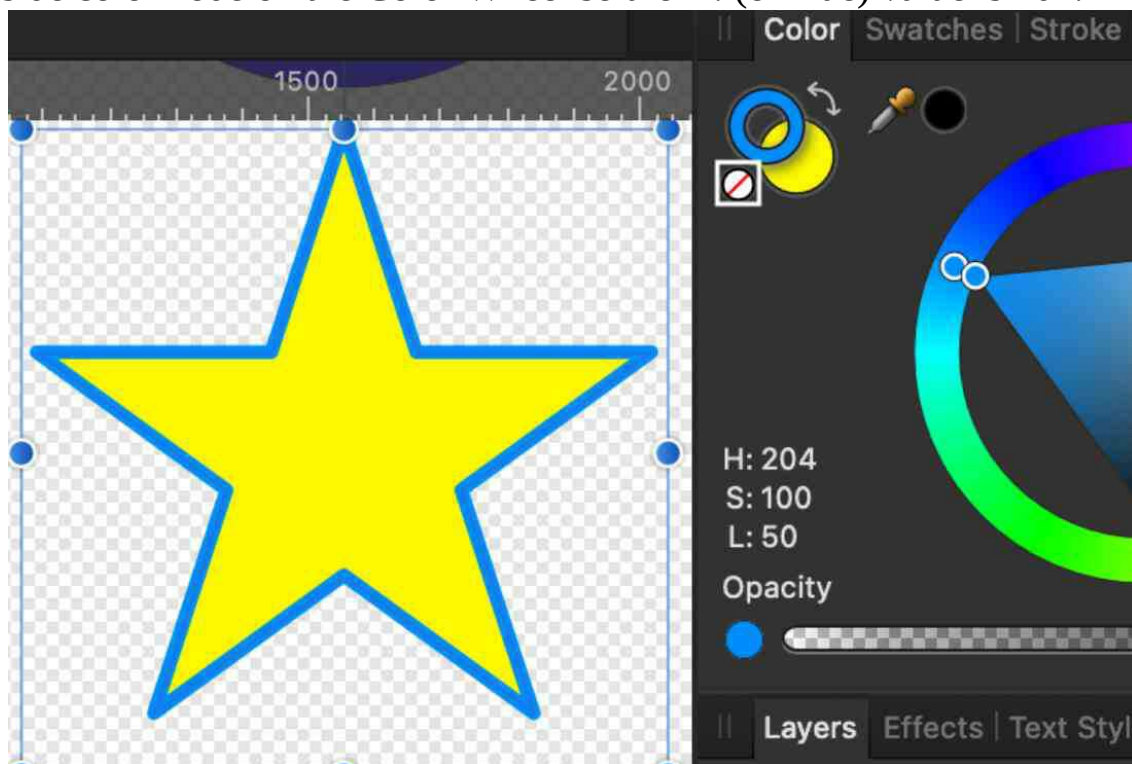
*Click on the **Stroke doughnut** (see the white semi-square) to change the stroke color. This will cause it to be in the front position; in front of the yellow Fill circle.*



**Note:** You can only change the color of the Fill or Stroke if its corresponding circle is in the front position. This is very important to remember!

Now that the Stroke doughnut is in front of the solid yellow Fill circle, we can click on the Color Wheel and change the Stroke's color. Check out this image below to see what we did. Notice how the color on the Color Wheel is the same as the Stroke circle and the same as the Stroke surrounding our Star shape in the document.

**Note:** If you want to use the exact same color as we are using, move the outside color node on the Color Wheel so the H: (or Hue) value is 204.



Click on the **no color circle** (see the white square in the above image) to see what happens. Remember this action will only affect the Stroke because its hollow circle is in front of the solid yellow Fill circle.

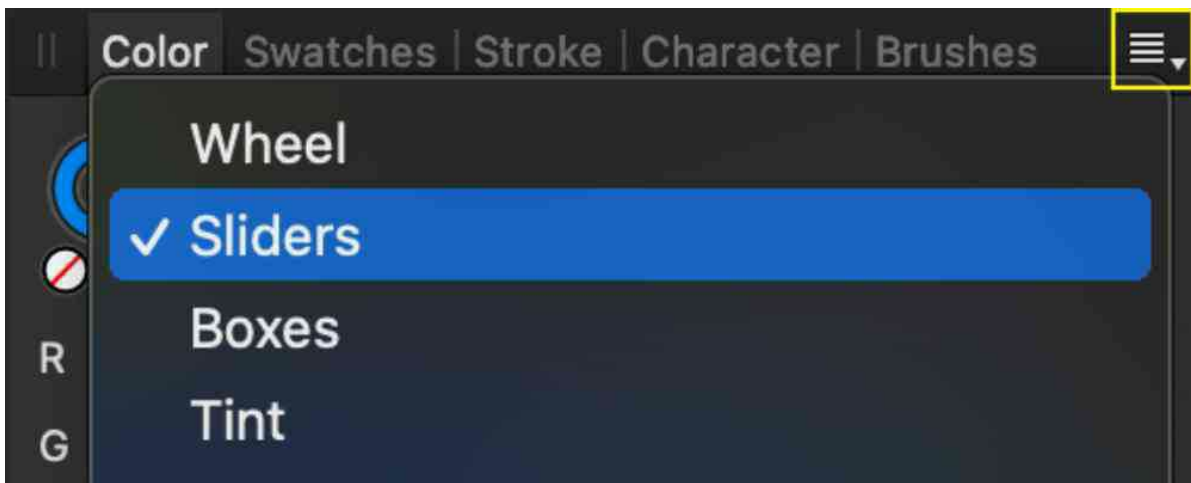
Press **Ctrl/Cmd+Z** to **undo** this last step so the Stroke's color returns.

So you can get some more practice using colors, let's use another coloring menu instead of the Color Wheel.

Click on the **Color Studio's menu** icon (see the yellow square in the below image) and a pop-out window will appear with a few choices:

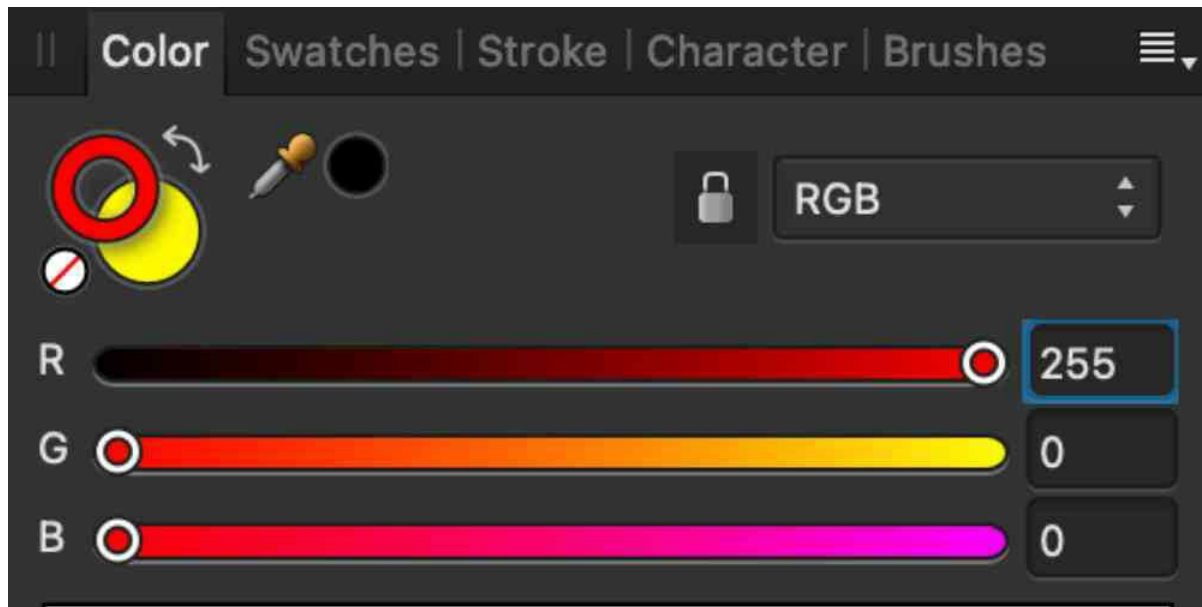
- Wheel
- Sliders
- Boxes
- Tint.

*Click on **Sliders**.*



*Click & drag on any of the **sliders** to change the color of the Stroke. We moved the top slider all the way to the right and the lower two sliders all the way to the left. The resulting color is Red.*

**Note:** In the middle of this book, we created a lesson where we'll teach you why 255, 0, 0 is Red. But for now, it's not important to know. But we hope we've piqued your interest. By the time you've finished this book, we promise you'll know exactly why 255 is a full red and many other technical parts of colors.



**Done.** Now you have the basics to know how to change colors of your shapes.

Please don't delete your work, because we'll continue using these shapes in our next lesson.

**Finished.** This ends this lesson.